

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

The air is full of the sounds of industrial strife, and the newspapers are full of lies about it.

There are some things that the workers cannot learn from the capitalist newspapers, and one is that "the workers have nothing to lose but their chains, and a world to win."

It is harmful for some to have more than they need while others have not enough.

Modern statesmanship is a conspiracy against the workers. How to keep them quiet while they are being skimmed is the principal study of the statesman.

When the statesman talks of "strong measures" he generally means the shooting down of the unarmed by the armed.

"It is necessary that the Liberals of this country should get to business," Joseph Cook. They did so long ago, and the result is that the workers are being cooked.

Patriotism is a barrier which the labor skimmers have set up between the workers of neighbouring countries.

War is a game which rich men play when they want what others possess.

False information and ignorance are sown like thistles amongst wheat. The capitalists mean the thistles for the workers.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." That is why craft unionism suffers so many defeats at the hands of the united capitalists.

Justice is as blind as a bat when human rights conflict with profits.

The policeman's club and the soldier's gun are both loaded by profits.

Sharper than a serpent's tooth is the bayonet which one worker sticks into another at the command of exploiters.

Laws were not made to protect the workers. They were made to legalise rent, interest, and profit.

In a court of law the word of a policeman is always accepted against a striker.

The ownership of the means of life is the way of salvation. The Kingdom of Heaven can only be founded on social ownership.

The way to the mansions of felicity is strewn with the relics of feudalism, chattel-slavery, barbarism, and savagery.

The reward of British labor. Five shillings a week at 70. The reward of idleness. The Duke of Bedford received 2½ millions for Covent Garden.

Over 160 Boy Conscripts were dealt with in two days by Sydney police magistrates last week. One hundred were sent to a military camp at George's Head. They were the sons of working-class parents, of course.

"It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere,"—Voltaire. And only fools revere their chains.

"Mrs. Pankhurst had only spoken for two minutes when the police rushed into the hall."—A news item, illustrating the freedom of woman.

The Bishop, of Montreal, has been denouncing afternoon gatherings of women at which they "dressed and danced shamelessly," and Archbishop Kelly, of Sydney, warned girls against looking at the nude figures in the local Art Gallery. The modern cleric has an awful mind.



The Scaremongers Behind the Japanese Bogey.

The Queensland Cabinet has decided that the State shall be represented at the Panama Exhibition. A suitable exhibit would be a model of a policeman strangling freedom of speech with a bowstring.

Plato, the ancient philosopher, was an advocate of women's rights. He says in his "Republic": "Always and in all things women are to share with the men." He was a long way ahead of many of today's leading British statesmen.

George Beekhouse (62), a labourer, tried to shoot himself in Armidale St. Peter's Cathedral, on a recent Sunday morning. He fired three shots at himself with a revolver, but failed to end his miserable religious existence. He told the court that he was a vergier of the cathedral, and the magistrate, evidently sympathising with his melancholy lot, let him off with four days' jail.

Mr. Justice Heydon gave a decision a few days ago which seemed to favour the northern miners a little, and the masters immediately moved the Full Court for a prohibition which was granted. Arbitration is a fine thing.

Many Sydney firms are using pay envelopes with advice to the workers printed on them to deposit their "savings" in the Government Savings Bank. Under capitalism the average worker cannot save without pinching and shortening his life. The more he deposits the more does the capitalist fight to get his subsistence wage lower. The capitalist points to the worker's savings in proof of his assertion that he is much better off than the worker is in other countries. This drugs the worker and deludes him into thinking that he is something to defend. When he is unemployed for a few weeks his "savings" and his stake in the country quickly vanish. And the master class generally takes care that he is unemployed now and then.

General Smuts, Minister for Defence in

South Africa, seems to be backing down. He says the deported strikers were not permanently banished, but if they want to return they must satisfy the Ministry of their future plans. The world-wide indignation, the immediate recall of Lord Gladstone, and the threat of an international boycott of South African products have been too much even for Smuts.

The Chicago Meat Company, with a capital of £15,000,000, intends to open branches in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The company, which already has a branch in Brisbane, says it "will do extensive cattle buying." Then good-bye to the small man.

The cockies around Wagga are asking the Government to enrol them as special constables, so that they can "legally" defend their "own property." Strikers, they say, attacked "free labourers" while they were asleep in their tents, and they think the men should be defended. The cockies seem to regard the seabs as their "own property."

It was stated at the recent Methodist Conference in Sydney that the heads of the various churches, including the Roman Catholic, had agreed to work in harmony in dealing with immigration. This agreement doesn't imply that the churches are going to promote immigration. They are only going to meet immigrants when they land and tell them that there is plenty of room in the churches for them. They will find out for themselves that there is none on the land and little room in the factories for them. However, the churches must get men somehow.

The press of Germany and Austria have worked up a great Russian war scare. As a result, the jobbers on the Stock Exchange and the armament firms stand to make a good haul of hoodle.

In introducing the Army Estimates in the British Parliament, Colonel Seely

said: "An expeditionary force of 162,000 and 50,000 of all arms could be ready in a few hours to go anywhere." "And," he might have added, "do anything and murder anybody."

Archbishop Kelly's criticism of pictures in the New South Wales Art Gallery has caused a rush of visitors who are anxious to see the "indecent" nudes.

"It might not be a bad thing to have a rent strike in Sydney and other places," Mr. Dooley, M.L.A. It would be splendid, especially if a strike against interest and profits was started at the same time.

"There was £1,500,000 more being expended on defence this year than last."

Senator Millen, Minister for Defence. The industrial capitalist is not the brainy fellow he is supposed to be, or he would see that this is an increased cut at his swag of surplus value.

Three young men were before the Brisbane Police Court on March 9th charged with being naval deserters. They pleaded guilty and were handed over to the naval authorities. Poor fools! They didn't know what they were doing when they joined.

"His party stood for democracy, constitutional reform, and for the peaceable progress of the community,"—Mr. Carr, M.P. It also stands for conscription, arbitration, trust smashing, and white Australia.

General Ian Hamilton likens the dark and dusky foreigner to a crow that sits on the limb of a tree until a sheep is helpless, when it descends and picks its victim's eyes out. It is a plausible analogy, but a false one. The real crow is the exploiter in our own country who blinds and deludes labour all the time. He even employs men like the General to cry "Wolf! wolf!" while he robs.

Under the Defence Act as it stood, troops might be called out in a time of industrial trouble, and when the Labour party, coming back to its own, once more read the reins of office, it would be its duty to amend the Act so as to render such a pernicious action impossible,"—Mr. J. Matthews, Labour M.P. It will be next to impossible for Fisher, Hughes and Pearce to perform this "duty."

Two welcome visitors arrived at the office last week from Brisbane. Comrades Besant and Rose, two of the Free Speech fighters who were quite recently the guests of his majesty at Bogga Road jail. They are proceeding to Melbourne and Adelaide, where they hope to do good work in connection with the fight. We hope they will be successful down south and that comrades will give them an appropriate welcome.

A Baptist minister, writing in the London "Daily Chronicle," referred to Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, as "a good Old Testament saint." He certainly is a few thousand years behind the times, according to the suffragettes.

Rev. William Francis John Romanis, of Homefield, Godalming, Surrey, left £40,295. "Blessed are the poor."

The Salvation Army has opened a saloon at New Jersey. It is on the American bar system, with free lunch with drinks, which are "soft." "We use the devil's ideas," the major says, "to perform God's work." The Devil is the Army's best friend, but it is news that the Army adopts his Satanic Majesty's ideas.

General Villa has confiscated the big landed estates where he has been successful in Mexico, and in Chihuahua city operates the banks, trolleys, foundries, etc., in the interest of the people. It is no wonder that the press cries 'shame' and tells of the outrages he is committing.

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Write on paper not larger than letter paper, and thin enough to avoid getting wadded for over-weight.

Mark the package "Press Matter Only," and address it "To the Editor."

Write briefly and clearly, as long and un-decipherable articles stand no chance of publication.

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If your article is not published, do not conclude that it is because it is of no merit; for it may be simply owing to the fact that it is not in accordance with the above rules. Where possible, articles of importance should be type-written.

The wise may learn more of fools than fools of the wise.—Cato.

Queensland Rulers.

THE FREE SPEECH FIGHT.

In the Free Speech Fight in Brisbane the workers of the Northern State are up against a stiff proposition. The rulers of the State are strongly entrenched in the apathy and somnolence of the bulk of the people, and are able to do what would be perilous in, say, a country like England.

The authorities have shown that they have no regard for either the law as it stands or the usages of ordinarily civilised man. From arrest and prosecution followed by a trampling of a man, from one step to another, until now an arrest is followed by a maximum sentence without an accused being given the opportunity to ask a question in court or of defending himself against his accusers. The formality of presenting in court a person accused of speaking on other than religious subjects on a Sunday might just as well be dispensed with, for it is no more than the honouring of the law in the breach, while is broken in the spirit. It is a travesty quite in keeping with the religion which such men profess and defend.

But from jailing Socialists without a fair trial they have proceeded to even worse measures, and now, incredible though it may seem, they are holding a sane man in Goodna Asylum in the person of George Campbell Thompson.

Originally Thompson was arrested for speaking on Sunday on a secular subject. His trial was a farce, and side-issues of all available kinds were introduced in court to damage his case. He was sentenced as a matter of course, and from the jail by some underhand legal hoons was transferred to Goodna Asylum, where he is now held by order of the Acting-Premier. What has happened to Thompson may happen to any other man in Queensland, for the Government of the State, and the control of the police and asylum officials, is in the hands of men who will stop at nothing to down opponents and close the mouth of critics.

As a result of the efforts of Brisbane Socialists the asylum authorities at Goodna have been compelled to state their reasons for keeping Thompson under lock and key, and in a report to the Home Secretary on his case, the Inspector of Asylums shows upon what little grounds a man in the Northern State may be shut up in an asylum for an indefinite period during the pleasure of class-conscious enemies. The following is a copy of the inspector's report:

(COPY.)

Hospital for the Insane.

Goodna.

7th February, 1914.

Sir,
Re George Campbell Thompson, Patient in Goodna.

With reference to the enclosed papers relating to patient George Campbell Thompson, of the Goodna Hospital for the Insane, I beg to report that in my opinion his mental state remains the same, and that he is not yet fit for discharge. He is full of exaggerated ideas of his own importance and knowledge of all subjects. He is constantly making groundless complaints regarding his food, saying that it is not fit for a human being to eat—but this is quite contrary to his former statements when he came here first, when he said that he was being fed like a king. The food now is exactly the same as it was then, both in quantity and quality.

He complains that his health is suffering as a result of his food, whereas he keeps in fairly good physical health. He also becomes extremely abusive when spoken to, without good reason.

In my opinion he is in the early stages of progressive delusional insanity (Paranoia), and, like such cases, is capable of writing sensible letters, so that a person not versed in the various phases of mental disease frequently imagines that such people are of quite sound mind.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) H. BYAM ELLERTON,
Inspector of Asylums.

The Under Secretary,
Home Department,
Brisbane.

According to this document Thompson is in no sense a dangerous person. The worst that can be said of him is that he is full of "exaggerated ideas of his own importance and knowledge of all subjects," a not uncommon failing in thousands of other people who yet are not deemed fit for incarceration as lunatics.

The concluding paragraph of the Inspector's report is such a transparent shuffle and fraudulent excuse for the detention of Thompson that it is wonderful that any government official could have written it without letting it be seen that he felt some shame at the disgraceful nature of it. Thompson is here shown to be at worst a man suffering from a harmless delusion, a man who can write so sensibly that a person not seeking to find some kink in his mental make up would not think that he was any other than a man of sound mind.

This disgraceful document, it should be noted, was furnished to Home Secretary Appel, who, so far, has done nothing to show that he appreciates the nature of its contents, and the shame and stigma that it casts upon the State and its people.

It is pleasing, however, to find that the matter is being taken up in other quarters, and that the actions of the Liberal Government, and its police and lunacy officials, is being sharply discussed by the trade unionists of the State, who are taking steps to hold a demonstration on the 28th inst., in connection with the matter. We trust that meeting will be attended by every worker in and around Brisbane, and that the resolutions submitted will have the effect of rousing the people to a sense of the gravity of the situation. The following circular in connection with the demonstration has been issued from the Trades Hall, Brisbane—

Trades Hall,

Brisbane.

March 7th, 1914.

To the Secretary.

Dear Sir,—We (the undersigned) are desirous of calling your attention to the "Free Speech" Demonstration which is to be held in the Market Square on the evening of Saturday, March 28th. Resolutions will be submitted condemning the action of the authorities in suppressing the right of free assemblage and free expression.

We feel that the time is opportune for combined action of all bodies interested in the maintenance of citizen rights. At present of imprisonment aggregating over two years and seven months. Fines amounting to upwards of £15 have been paid by those whose position prohibited them from taking it out in jail.

The Commissioner of Police (Major Cahill, C.M.G., etc.) has intimated that he will not grant permits to other than "duly accredited representatives of religious bodies." This gross discrimination between religious and secular bodies must be ended. Such a state of affairs is an anachronism in a democratic community. We also desire to call your attention to the case of George Campbell Thompson, who five months ago was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for speaking without a permit. Arriving at Boggo Road Prison, he refused to eat the jail food, whereupon Drs. MacDonald and Dodd after a cursory examination,

certified him to be insane, and he was spirited away to Goodna Asylum. A number of persons have visited Thompson during his detention at Goodna, and one and all maintain that he is a sane man. The vicious principle which allows a defenceless prisoner to be railroaded into a lunatic asylum without a proper inquiry must be uprooted. No man is safe whilst such a principle exists. To the end of obtaining Thompson's release a resolution will be submitted at the demonstration calling on the authorities to take immediate action and set Thompson free.

In conclusion we should like to state that the Demonstration will be entirely non-partisan and non-sectarian; so everyone, irrespective of creed or party can take part in this fight for the reinstatement of the elementary rights of citizenship. Workers of Brisbane it is up to you!

We ask that your union appoint representatives to take part in the Demonstration, and that every member be urged to be present.

E. A. AXELSEN, Secy. Bakers' Union.
T. E. BROWN, Sec. Butchers' Union.

T. J. FOAT, Sec. Painters' Union.

R. C. ANDERSON, Sec. Timber Workers' Union.

J. J. McARTHUR, Bakers' Union.

W. WRIGHT, Sec. Progressive Carpenters' Union.

GORDON BROWN, Socialist Party.

P.S.—Please find enclosed a copy of Dr. Ellerton's report re Thompson's mental state. This report amply demonstrates that Thompson is sane, and justifies our action in endeavouring to obtain his release.

All communications, etc., to be addressed to E. A. Axelsen, Trades Hall, Brisbane.

NINE SHARPSHOOTERS.

When the mine owners of Colorado began evicting striking miners and their families from the companies' shacks and company property the United Mine boys threw up tents on nearby land and moved into them.

Then the mine companies sent men with machine guns and searchlight, and, perched upon almost inaccessible ridges or boulders, these gunmen sent shot after shot into the miners' tent colonies below.

In the December number of the "Review" we printed a photograph of the machine gun used by nine guards at Berwind Canyon. It was placed high upon a ragged ridge, from which it could be constantly trained over the miners' camp in the valley below. All night long the guards kept a powerful searchlight trained over the passes and the comings and goings of the miners. They believed themselves to be in an impregnable position.

From five hundred to a thousand miners occupied the attention of the guards by the use of long distance rifles on one side of the ridge. The guards felt confident that they could easily sweep clear the remaining sides before any attacking party could approach. They imagined that the death-dealing instrument with which they sent destruction into the camps would cow the strikers. They did not know the spirit of the Colorado miners.

It was on a Friday at 10 o'clock in the morning, October 20, that nine miners, who had served as sharpshooters in the Balkans, bade their comrades good-bye and started their long journey toward the enemy that blazed gleefully away from the topmost pinnacle of the lofty ridge. Through narrow passes and over bald boulders they travelled. Very quietly, very cautiously, very slowly they journeyed, for much depended upon the success of their mission. It was for them to silence the machine gun that belched forth death in the tent homes of the miners below. They did not mean to fail.

Through the long night they worked their way, and it was not until noon on the following day that they paused in a fissure of the great rocks to confer. They saw nine guards casually continuing their work of murder. And some of them smoked while others took their ease from the day's grind.

And the nine miners, who had served in the Balkans, lifted their rifles to their shoulders and picked each his man. Nine shots rang out! And the machine gun ceased to fire, for upon the high ridge there remained no single living thing.

And down to the camps of their brother miners went the sharpshooters with the machine gun which they captured. And there it has remained. On their triumphal march homeward the victors encountered seven auto loads of provisions designed to feed militiamen, deputy sheriffs and private detectives. These

they promptly confiscated and bore with them.

That night a message was sent to the strike relief committee by the miners at Berwind Canyon. It bore the advice that thereafter no provisions need be supplied them and a request that arms and ammunition be sent instead.

It has been reported that George Belcher, manager of the Baldwin-Felz detective agency, who shot and killed Gerald Lippett, organizer of the U.M.W.A., has been killed.

Our correspondent informs us that the investigation of the shooting was a farce and that Belcher was released on bond. Not long after Belcher came out of a drug store at Trinidad and paused to light a cigar. Eight hundred soldiers were upon the square with fifty deputies and innumerable policemen and detectives. As Belcher struck a match a bullet from an unseen gun hit him at the base of the brain and he was killed instantly.

E. E. Schumway, president of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, declared that the recent explosion that occurred in one of the mines and killed thirty-seven miners, had not been caused by gas. He went so far as to go down into the mine to prove his point. Within four or five days he died as a result of being overcome by gas. Everybody agrees that this was a most unfortunate occurrence.

More Work for the Undertaker.

They say that of the army of Baldwin-Felz thugs that "went through" the miners' tent colony at Ludlow looking for arms and ammunition, one hundred and seventy-three men met a sudden death within the following week. Reports of the brutalities practised by these hired dogs pass all belief. But we are glad to record the fact that their tactics changed wholly after one hundred and seventy-three funerals occurred, following the fatalities mentioned above.

Mother Jones is in jail again. The governor of Colorado assured her that she could go anywhere in Colorado except in the southern strike zone. Two weeks ago on Sunday evening she took a train from Denver, securing a berth at the railroad yards in order to avoid publicity. Arriving at Trinidad, she rented a room and prepared to take a much-needed rest. That night at about 10 o'clock, with eight soldiers in her room and eight hundred soldiers surrounding the hotel, she was taken to the St. Raphael Hospital. She is as closely guarded as though she were in a Chicago jail, but knowing the character of the miners, it was decided to inform the public that she is in a hospital. Two sentries stand before her door and eight hundred soldiers are camped on the grounds of the "hospital."—International Socialist Review.

The automatic telephone is here. Installations have been made at Newtown, Balmain and Glebe, and these will very shortly be in operation. It will not be very long before the system is extended to the Sydney central exchange, and out will go Miss Telephone Girl to the number of about 300. This is how capitalism deals with the worker's job, and then they tell us that the worker should not be discontented. Now a deputation has obtained an assurance from the Labour Government, that a Bill will shortly be introduced authorising the American style of ferro-concrete building (a type of building in which no bricks whatever are used), and then the bricklayers will be in for a good time. Let society own the machine. That is the remedy.—D. HEALY.

Lord Cross, a distinguished inventor, died the other day in Britain. When he was at the Home Office in a Tory Administration, he invented the plank bed for prisoners and thus earned the dubious honour of being the greatest torturer of last century. He was reckoned to be a good Christian and an exemplary man, but in reality he was one of the most brutal ruffians of his day. There was no necessity to add to the heavy punishments inflicted upon unfortunates by callous judges, but Cross had a bent that way, and he studied how he could add to the torture of sleepless nights by increasing the physical discomfort of his victims. For this service—he did not otherwise distinguish himself—he got a pension of £2000 a year for 27 years. The nation thus paid him £54,000 for the invention which probably helped to drive hundreds of poor prisoners mad. With this money invested, his descendants will be legally entitled and empowered to rob for ever—or until the revolution comes.

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

The Birth Strike.

By Ajax.

The capitalist press from time to time publish articles about the declining birth-rate, the deserted hearth, and the increasing number of bachelors and spinsters in society. Clerical journals make a special point of the sin of sterility and serve up sickly sentimentalism about "The Empty Cradle." In some countries politicians have endeavoured to cope with the declining birthrate by legislation, which at best only tinkers with the effect and fails utterly, as all capitalist administration does to grapple with the cause.

The refusal of an increasing number of the proletariat to obey the parsonical injunction to "increase, multiply and replenish the earth" can be definitely traced to an economic cause—exploitation.

People begin to realise that large families are difficult to rear and too expensive, not to mention the personal disadvantages and sacrifices they entail. The poor will doubtless take comfort from the fact that the same journals who barack for population print advertisements inserted by rent-racklers and sweaters, containing the ominous words: "No encumbrances." In another column from reading the advertisements one is led to the conclusion that the only labour required is child labour. So artificial and callous has our system of production become that man is the only animal that lives on the toil of its young.

Statistics prove conclusively that in every capitalised country a large percentage of married people are existing on a bare subsistence wage. Prof. Bowley estimates that a third of English workmen, even if working full time, average less than 25s a week.

History shows clearly that Christianity, politics, and legality have failed dismally to solve the problem. Indeed, the only people who can deal with the position are the poor. This question of the family is essentially a poor man's question and not a matter to be arbitrarily decided by the narrow dictates that emanate from a puritan presbytery neither is settled by a "baby bonus."

The State (so-called) professes to be very concerned with the welfare of the family and well it may, for the State could not exist without the family, although the family could get along very well without the State. There is something illogical about this nonentity called the State. According to the arbitrary decrees of the class state the child belongs to the parent, who is responsible for its maintenance, training and conduct during infancy. The moment the child becomes useful the State says in effect, "The child belongs to me." Capitalism requires it for industrial or military purposes. This dictum particularly applies to free and enlightened democratic Australia, where, according to law the child at the tender age of fourteen, becomes a conscript, while Judge Heydon's recent utterances on the cost of living make it clear that his class expect the worker's child to become a factory hand at fourteen.

Of course the pretended solicitude of the State for the workers' welfare is purely to guarantee a plentiful supply of labour. The technical schools and improvements in commercial education are really efforts to encourage skilled artisans to school their children to a particular trade, specialised slaves being the demand of commercialism, the captains of industry and militarism having found by long existence that generally speaking, only those hereditarily inclined are suited to their requirements.

Supposing the workers were to assimilate the ideas of Mathuss Besant and similar writers and decided on a birth-strike for, say, one year, what would be the result?

In the first place the worker would be better off economically, and probably improve physically and intellectually. His wife will be spared the numerous trials and sacrifices maternity involves on the poor. Moreover, a wholesome and much-needed check thereby is immediately put upon the haphazard breeding of degenerates that now obtains.

Certain peculiar businesses that trade upon the maternity and ignorance of the poor would at once receive a shock. It is impossible in the limits of an article to state the probabilities and possibilities of a birth-strike. One can safely surmise that such a strike threatens the extinction of the State and probably renders the machinery of government unworkable, at the same time striking a deadly blow at industrialism and militarism.

The argument that as machinery increases wages decrease, and unemploy-

ment prevails is true, but only true from a commercial standpoint; although it might be urged as a point in favour of limitation of the family. It is questionable whether economic theories have ever influenced a majority of humanity. This is not an epoch of reason; it is an age of mad commercialism, but yet the greatest power is still humanity. By limiting births the workers are withholding the fuel that feeds this mighty furnace of industrialism. If the workers believe they are industrial machines, it is only a question of time when they act like machines and stop human production at its source.

Noticing the failure of sectional strikes the hopelessness of expecting anything from capitalist institutions such as church, law, parliament, etc.; it is surprising the poor have not endeavoured to analyse the possibilities of the birth strike, particularly the women, for they are most directly concerned. They have much to gain and little to lose, especially as fine ladies have shown the way. Indeed, signs are not wanting that many wealthy and intellectual women have individually started a birth strike.

There is no blood and thunder about the birth strike, no starving strikers and abortive conferences, none of the usual hardships workers suffer in these industrial battles. Rather the reverse, for there can be no question the workers individually, indirectly and collectively, would be better off. Another great factor in their favour is that no law or force could stay or hinder the birth strike once a considerable number of the workers decided that "We WILL IT."

It is difficult to see how any government could resist them. Probably the State to save itself would grant concessions to stave off the strike. This strike doubtless involves radical changes in religion, industry and sex relations, changes that inevitably jeopardise orthodox creeds and social superstitions. The mental effect of this silent protest against the existing regime can hardly be calculated and doubtless it will prove far reaching in its results.

From a revolutionary standpoint it augurs well for the future. It is not quantity the workers require, its quality. Past history of the class war proves conclusively that a few intelligent, determined individuals are far more dangerous than a herd of slaves.

Here in Australia, with its comparatively poor birthrate and failure of immigration policy the workers favoured by the congestion of population in certain places are in an excellent position to propagate and put into execution the idea of a birth-strike; thus showing to the world's proletariat that the toilers in Australia are to the fore in the class war and have forged a powerful weapon to which the flunkies of capitalism have no reply.

CONSCRIPTION.

Sunday morning (February 22nd), on arriving at La Perouse, we were met by a number of gun carriages and boys of our conscript army, returning to Sydney, I presume.

Each gun was drawn by six fine-spirited horses, but on coming out of the military reserve, they refused to pull up the small incline leading out of the gate. Without any palaver on the part of the officers in charge, the boys—our boys—were ordered to unhitch the horses and pull and push the gun carriage out of the gate. Nine boys became beasts of burden, whilst six well-fed horses stood by, and some fat, hump-backed individuals sat on more well-fed horses, and the boys did it, without a single one resenting the indignity, and this was done three times over.

This means one of two things, either our boys' spirits are being entirely broken, to become the willing tools of the governing class, or, as I hope, when they get the vote, they will see that their younger brothers shall not be treated in such a disgraceful manner.

Work is good for all. I have three boys already conscripts unfortunately, and one 11 years ordered to military drill in school, and they have all been trained to the maxim that "all those who will not work shall not eat," but I should have considered myself disgraced, if any of them had been amongst the lads last Sunday.

A man who watched with us had served his time in a cavalry regiment in Britain, but had never seen such an exhibition of incompetence on the part of officers, and such badly-trained horses.

The boys, I hear, were fed on Saturday night on bread and jam and weak coffee. It would be well to know how the officers and horses fared.

A.M.O.F.

Militarist Claptrap.

War—Its Cause.

Why the Working-class Should Refuse To Drill.

(By J. R. Wilson).

In Australia, as in all other countries, there are a large number of people who believe in some form of compulsory militarism.

Most, it may be truthfully remarked, do so because they fail to understand that militarism is only essential to capitalist domination, and does not serve any useful purpose from the standpoint of the propertyless and enslaved working-class; and also because they fail to recognise that all wars are expeditions of loot and plunder, organised in the interests of plutocrats.

In other words, that all wars are waged in the economic interests of the industrial rulers of society.

That anyone claiming to be a Socialist, should advocate any form of compulsory militarism whilst professing to be a Socialist, has always been beyond the writer's comprehension.

Nevertheless, there are people who claim to be Socialists who hold this view, whether they be cranks, humbugs, or militarists in disguise, remains to be seen.

However, as cranks and humbugs are very much in the minority, Socialists can afford to let them traverse the even tenor of their way unmolested.

What is of importance, is that the working-class man prepared to drill, and ultimately shoulder arms, in a war of aggression or resistance to aggression, should be convinced that he has nothing to fight for, and consequently should refuse to drill, and bear arms under all circumstances.

This brings all concerned to face and answer the query: what is the cause that underlies all wars?

For long it has been claimed that religion has played a part, and that some wars have been decidedly religious in character, such as the Balkan War, when we were told it was a question of the Cross versus the Crescent, Christianity versus Mohammedanism.

Although told such was the case, no attempt was really made to prove such a statement, and until militarists and war-mongers generally, are prepared to produce evidence to that effect, intelligent people can only conclude that the Balkan war, and all other wars said to be principally religious in character are really in the last cold and simple analysis, economic in character, but is caused or brought about, by the clash of economic interests of certain sections of the capitalist class.

For the multitude capitalists, capitalist politicians, and capitalist hirelings, will always have a reason plausible, etc., as an excuse for declaring war.

Take, for instance, the following wars between Britain and the Transvaal, and between Spain and the United States.

As to the cause of the former war it was said to be the claims of Englishmen long resident in the Transvaal, to the vote, and as to the latter the blowing up of the American battleship, *The Maine*.

As to the former reason given as the cause of the South African war, well, it simply won't hold water. What the hell do the English section of the world's capitalist class care about Englishmen in the Transvaal, whether they have the right to exercise the franchise or not, since the self-same capitalist faction have not granted manhood suffrage to Englishmen at home, and are even at this very moment engaged in gaoing English women who are demanding only a limited franchise.

As to the blowing up of the American battleship, *The Maine*, by Spaniards, how can the fact be explained away, that *The Maine's* armour-plate was bent outward and not inward at the points of fracture. Does it not look more likely that the blowing up of *The Maine* was deliberately organised in the interests of American plutocracy, or having occurred from causes unknown, was taken advantage of to inflame the latent racial prejudice of American citizens, to so prepare the public mind for war?

As to the cause of the South African war, well, almost every man and woman, with any sense, who has read or thought about the matter, knows full well, that the real cause of the war, was the demand by capitalist shareholders in South African gold mines for the more complete and scientific development of the Transvaal gold resources; and that, that in its turn, necessitated the establishment of a modern capitalist government in South Africa.

Hence the war with its disease and death, hence the reason why Britishers, whose racial and other prejudices, were aroused, were tricked to the trenches.

As to the Hispano American War, American capitalists who had investments in Cuban industries, desired Spanish capitalists crowded out, as they knew their investments would be more secure, if that were done, and would increase in value, and thus make more profits. So once again the goal was profits, the cause an economic one.

As all wars are waged for similar reasons, the question may well be asked: Why should the working-class take part in the blood-letting business, in the interests of plutocrats?

Ah! says the advocate of citizen armies; that's just the point. True wars are caused for capitalist purposes, but once war has been declared, regrettable as it may be, and armed invasion of the country in which one was born takes place, it is the duty of every man to resist such invasion, for would it not mean a change of masters, who would even be greater tyrants, and wholesale massacre of men, women and children, so say the advocates of compulsory training, even when they are prepared to admit that the working-class have no country to fight for.

Such arguments are equally as absurd as all other arguments advanced by militarists.

As to the bogey man, a change in industrial masters, as Gustave Hervé, the leading French opponent of war, clearly points out, it means nothing of the kind, by proof of which he refers to the Franco German war, and the annexation of Alsace Lorraine by Germany about which he remarks (to quote from memory) that those who were capitalists before the war, were capitalists after the war, and that the proletariat and beggars prior to the war remained proletarians and beggars after the war.

A change in industrial masters indeed! What bunkum, as if a change in industrial masters meant anything to the working-class; as a matter of fact it is just the industrial masters of society that the world's working-class have in their own interest, to wage war upon (the class war).

Since they are the real and only enemies of the proletariat, capitalist Jews, capitalist Christians, and capitalist Mohammedans, being all alike.

Trading upon ignorance and fear the militarists, however, seek to make it appear that a general massacre would be sure to occur if armed resistance were not offered, no matter what the cause of war might be.

If such is the case, then, why in the past has not a general slaughter of nations defeated in war not taken place, when their conquerors succeeded in getting the upper hand, let military maniacs, answer that question. I defy them. They cannot point to a single instance in all the wars of the past one hundred years, when such has occurred, all the blood-letting has taken place during the war.

Not in South Africa did it occur, or in Cuba, or in Korea, or anywhere else. The blood-spilling, I again repeat, occurred during the war, and would not have occurred had the workers of either nation who went to war, refused to fight. Neither would it have occurred if the workers of any one country had refused to be called to the colours, war would have been, for the industrial rulers impossible.

All was being therefore waged in the interests of the industrial brigands of society, and the workers of all countries having nothing to gain by war, but everything to lose, having no country to defend, understanding that it does not even mean to them a change in industrial masters, that the wholesale slaughter of the people of a civilised nation, is merely a bogey, and that all forms of militarism makes for capitalist domination. Working-men refuse to countenance war, refuse to train, refuse to allow your sons to be trained in the art of murder. Remember that war is hell, and let those who want war go to hell!

The international capitalists recently undertook to construct a Government for Albania, and appointed an International Commission of Control to take the necessary steps. The Commission set to work, and as a first step, appointed Prince William of Wied to sit upon the Albanian throne. The Prince was escorted to his new kingdom by an international fleet capable of blowing any objectors off the face of the earth. All went well until the Moslems got to know that Prince William is a Christian when they promptly revolted against him. No doubt a Christian ruler is a monstrosity to a Turk, as to other people, for a Christian king is but the figurehead of international capitalism.

Topical Tattle.

Cable advices state that the labourers on the Royal estates, Sandringham, have been given an advance of one shilling per week in wages. A whole twopence a day! They'll be millionaires by the time old Gabriel sounds the last post.

The Force captured a batch of cyclists last week, who were subsequently fined for riding on the footway. In parts of Linfield, carts are driven along the foot-path in preference to the alleged road. The last policeman seen in that suburb, however, was about 400 B.C.

"Green hair" is the latest Parisian fashion. Those who adopt this "fashion" will probably have no need to dye the portion of their anatomy supporting the hair—its state will match the colour of the hair.

Charles Gregory's low-rate humour at Mr. Estelle's expense in the House last week was certainly not pedantic—one can't be a pedant when he has no learning to show off.

Lord Emmott said "... The social legislation of Australasia was inspired by a desire to benefit millions rather than millionaires." Which shows that Bull, jr., has more sense than the ancient buffalo Bull.

Mr. Fitzpatrick regarded the return of Ministers to power as being due to a "series of accidents." Well, accidents will happen; and a large one happened to the Squibbals at the last election.

Another overseas Wowser has arrived in N.S.W. for a 12 months' evangelistic campaign. Surely the word "evangelistic" is a misprint; or the comp. omitted the compound word "money-making!"

Mr. Braund, M.L.A., claimed that the Lib. party's ideals, democratically, were higher than those of the Government. H'm! So "high" are they that we're sure they're really defunct.

At a Methodist meeting last week one of the Lord's co-workers, said that "the greatest victories were yet before the Church." That's news to us, as we understood the church was beating a 100-mile-an-hour retreat from knowledge.

A striker against the tyranny of Fat got 18 months for so-called conspiracy. At Forbes, the other day, a human insect got three months for beating a horse to death with a shovel! Oh, Justice! thou ART blind!

Now the strike is over,
Prices are on high;
Actions of the Meat Ring
Are evidenced thereby.

Chicago female police are being retired, owing mainly to the roughness they displayed in handling some waitresses who were on strike. Gentle ladies, the hand that rules the rooster must not be applied with the same force to the hen.

The persecution of the unfortunate, inoffensive man, Chidley, still continues. If the authorities are so keen on looking after the morals of the public, why don't they impound the "Wur-rd!" In the Municipal Library there is one of Voltaire's works—in the original tongue—which anyone may read; and it's so "hot" that it set fire to the writer's hair whilst reading it.

Judging by the way some of our local John Hops endeavour to get a case, one is inclined to the belief that they have had a course of training under the Russian Secret Police.

Sir A. Peacock promptly sat upon the deputation from the Master Builders and Master Masons' Association, who asked that the chairman of a certain Wages Board be removed; owing, it is alleged, to his political opposition to them. This clearly shows to what lengths Fat will go to deter workmen from getting a living wage.

F.M.

There is no class of workers who have a more just cause for going on strike than the wives of working men. Their work is hard and disagreeable. They work long hours and with the crudest of tools. The only vacations they ever get are the kind where the neighbors gather round and sing "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." When wives of workmen, who persist in voting for the boss's family instead of their own, get wise to the gold brick being handed to them at every election day by these Henry Dubb husbands of theirs, that old Bible prophecy of seven women taking hold of one man is likely to come true. And let us hope when that time comes that they will handle him without gloves.—"Appeal to Reason."

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.
General Secretary: J. W. ROCHE.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.
LUKE JONES, Act. Gen. Sec.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

The Administrative Council met at Headquarters on Sat. March 14, when a large amount of business was transacted. The branches should see that their delegates attend regularly. At the next meeting to be held on March 28, the Council will discuss the position of the paper. All delegates should attend next meeting as it is highly important that the Council should have full meetings just now.

LUKE JONES, Acting General Sec.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

The work of the branch has been carried with good results during the last week. At the business meeting on Tuesday March 10, more new members were added to the roll. The Red Week proposition was discussed, and the committee appointed to obtain a hall reported that they were unable to procure a suitable place, all the local halls being booked up. Therefore, we will have to content ourselves with a social and a May Day demonstration.

Good meetings were held on the domain and Market and Park Streets. The speakers at the domain meeting were Slade, Chairman, Mrs. Paul, Comrades Riley, and Burgess, the latter a recent arrival from Melbourne. All the speakers were in good form and acquitted themselves well. Members should turn up at the meetings and assist the speakers in the propaganda by selling the paper and literature.

Market street meeting was addressed by Comrades Slade and Mrs. Paul. Park-st. meeting was addressed by Comrade Gordon. Paper sellers were busy with the crowd, but we could do with more sellers. Next branch meeting will be held at Queens Hall on Tuesday, March 24. Roll up and swell the meeting. Several members are still unfinancial. This should be attended to without delay.

LUKE JONES,
Secretary.

MELBOURNE BRANCH A.S.P.

It is wonderful what a handful of militant Socialists can accomplish in the shape of Socialist propaganda, and of no branch of the A.S.P. is this more apparent than of Melbourne branch.

Despite all rival concerns, despite treachery, despite rail-sitters, and time servers, our branch, I am pleased to record, continues to forge ahead.

True, the expounding of the gospel of Socialists falls upon the shoulders of a few speakers, but their labours are not in vain, as an ever larger number of people are attending all open-air meetings held under our auspices, whilst the demand for Socialist literature shows a decided tendency to increase.

Our indoor meetings continue also to boast a fair attendance, but when the warm weather has gone and the evenings are cooler there ought to be no difficulty experienced in filling our hall every Sunday evening.

Last week new ground was broken, by a meeting being held at Port Melbourne on Friday evening, when a fairly large and certainly very attentive audience listened to the gospel of revolt.

Several new members have also lately been enrolled, and if only all unattached Socialists would join our branch, would not merely top the list of branches for financial membership, but our activities could be also increased in many respects, and the work of education and agitation made considerably easier.

Comrades are requested to make a note of the fact that the second anniversary of our branch will be celebrated at branch headquarters, on Monday, 23rd March, when a euchre party and social and dance will be held. As tickets are to be obtained for same from branch secretary, it is expected that all members will take a hand in disposing of same and so help to swell attendance and branch funds.

J. R. WILSON, Sec.

BRISBANE.

Owing to lack of men and money the police of Brisbane have had a quiet time of late. Various reasons have caused a postponement of our Demonstration until the 28th March. The Unions have got a move on at last, and with their aid we hope to show a good front to Denham,

Appel, Cahill, and Co. Dave Bowman, ex-leader of the Labor Party, has promised to speak at the meeting. Everything points to the Demonstration being a huge success. Thompson's case will be dealt with and possibly the publicity thus given will compel the authorities to get a move on.

Extremely sorry to hear that the Club has made such a big mistake. Have they turned the paper down altogether or only for a period? The loss of the paper will come as a shock to many in the movement.

At our last Branch meeting Comrade Jack Read was appointed to do the secretarial work of the Branch, so in future all communications must be addressed to him.—Yours, etc.

FREE SPEECH FIGHT FUND.

Previously acknowledged, £70/17/2: Leichhardt Friends, 8d; A. Webber, 6d; R. Connelly, 6d; W. J. Chidley, 5; Free Speech, 6d; W.R.W., 2/6; March 4, donated at Byrnes Statue, 10; Mar. 6, Coll. Market Square, 8/10; Mar. 7, Coll. Mark. Square, 7; Mar. 9, Green, Rockhampton (per Jackson), 10; March 9, Coll. by W. Jackson, £1/18/6; Total, £74/1/2.

Expenditure previously acknowledged, £49/15/2: Paid to D. Johnson, £1/1; Henry, 2; Quinton, £2/3/6; A. E. Brown, £1/2; Alf. Rees, £1/5; Tom Hayes, £1/7; Oliver Gordon, £2/0/6; Gordon's fare to Sydney, £1/1; J. W. Roche, £1/2; H. Sydney, 2; B. Bessant, £2; J. Fox, £1; O'Brien, £1/5; Watch-house meals, 5/9; Wires, 4; Papers, 4/3; Car Fares, 5/1; Hire of Horses, 15; Stamps, 6; Fares to Goodna, 4; Paid for camp food (R. M. Rose), 11/5; Fruit for Thompson, 1; Writing Paper, 2/6; Advertisement, 1; Money Order, 6d; Special Ink for Theograph, 1/3; Total £68/7/11.

GORDON BROWN,
Organiser B. Beh, A.S.P.

TOWNSVILLE NOTES.

The local skull-cracking fanatic is a bit late in the day in attempting to stop the growth of Revolutionary Socialism. Others have tried, but much to their surprise it has grown in intensity. The Inspector of Police here has issued a mandate that no Socialists are to be allowed to speak in the streets of Townsville. The Materialist Conception of History applies nicely in this case. The conditions under which he obtains his living determines his thoughts and actions. I have never felt so anxious to express myself on the class struggle as I have since the police adopted their vindictive and foolish action. I will candidly admit that Cahill, the preserver of the religion and morals of Brisbane, has given Socialist propaganda a big advertisement, and his understrapper here has ably assisted in the same work, and that record attendances at meetings, and record sales of literature have been the result in every town I have visited. If it is any news to these uniformed mental and physical prostitutes, I will state that we are putting renewed energy into the struggle and from now on there will be much more doing. I have held big meetings up north for the purpose of securing subscribers for the "International" and held two big meetings at the Trades Hall, Townsville. On both occasions the heat was terrific. The A.W.U. supplied me with over 200 pamphlets, and they were eagerly snapped up at the first meeting. I left for Charters Towers on February 23, and held a meeting in the Gardens on Sunday. The weather conditions were not too good, but notwithstanding, I had an audience of 350. Comrade Hardie made his second effort, and made a good impression. He is one of my Northern converts, and I think you will hear more of him in the future. The slumber antidote has taken effect up here and the slaves realise that they have been in a trance. I returned to Townsville on Thursday, and expect to be up against it again. I don't mind, and will give them something to ponder over before I return south. The fight is on, and we want one and all to make a great effort. Organiser Cahill, of Brisbane, is serving his purpose in society. I lassoed six slaves' subs. at my Charters Towers meeting, and sent 20/- on to Brisbane for the Free Speech Fight Fund. By this mail I have collections amounting to £2/8/8 to fight the gang of hired murderers with.

W. JACKSON.

BALMAIN

The Balmain Branch has arranged to have an official opening of the new hall at 54 Beattie-st., Balmain, on Thursday evening, March 19,—the anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx. Comrades and friends are all invited to attend. The meeting will be opened with songs and lectures. Light refreshments will be provided.

W. FENWICK, Hon. Sec.
5 Little Theodore-st., Balmain.

NEWTOWN.

The Newtown branch held its usual propaganda meetings last week end. On Friday evening Comrades Page and Jackson held a lively meeting at Annandale. On Sat. evening Comrades Jackson, Slade, Healy and Page addressed a fairly large meeting and would have had the usual good hearing had not the Bummery started a diversion a few yards from our usual pitch. I suppose we may expect this sort of thing now and then from socialist-smashers, wowsers, and drunken laborites.

On Sunday evening Comrades Page, Jackson, Foran, and Kotton addressed a very attentive audience, and the three last-named Comrades acquitted themselves splendidly. Comrades Jackson and Foran are improving with every effort, while Comrade Kotton is, though young, a determined Socialist advocate with a thorough grip of Socialist economics. All papers sold out.

W. J. PAGE, Secretary.

REFORMISTS OF ITALY.

Dear Editor: Your article headed "Italian Government Hit" was evidently based on wrong information. The Reformists are not opposed to the Government, and the members appointed Senators have accepted the position and have in due course been before the King.

Bisolati, the leader of the Reformists, will never enter the official Socialist party again. He will more likely be a member of the Italian Government before long. His downfall has been remarkable, and he is drifting further away from Socialism every day, and men like him and his followers are not wanted in our ranks. They are better out than in.

Bisolati will be exactly what Millerand has been in France. Since the Reformists were thrown out, the Socialist Party has improved in Italy, and it is impossible that a union of the two parties can take place again. The Reformists in Italy are exactly what the Labor Party is in Australia.

CHAS. L. BUSHELL.

TO SMART YOUNG MEN: We have vacancies for any number of smart and brainy young men in the ranks of the militant Socialism. Those desiring to qualify for oratorical positions should communicate with the Secretary of the nearest branch.

PRESS AND MAINTENANCE FUND.

Previously acknowledged £83/10s. 6d. Collected at Club Social, 5s. 7d.; G. W. Binalon, 5s. Total, £84/1s. 1d.

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